



**LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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To: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools

From: Latifah Phillips, Chief Equity and Engagement Officer *LP*

RE: Doctoral Research Proposal - *How District Leaders Foster Equity Practices*

Date: August 29, 2019

A request was submitted to the Lowell Public Schools from five (5) doctoral candidates at Boston College's Lynch School of Education (Matt Bishop, Deb Bookis, Sandi Drummey, Allyson Mizoguchi, and Tommy Welch) who as a team are conducting their research titled, "How District Leaders Foster Equity Practices." The doctoral candidate team expressed interest in the Lowell Public Schools based on the district's stated commitment to equity and timing of the transition of the new leadership team.

The doctoral candidate team will interview individual leaders, conduct focus group interviews, review district documentation and observe district leadership to better understand how district leaders engage in practices that support and advance equity for students.

Specifically, the team will focus on five (5) areas:

- Fostering a sense of belonging for students of color,
- Fostering how the system talks about equity,
- Ensuring equity for English Learners,
- Setting conditions for teacher-led equity work, and
- Preparing for future leadership transitions while maintaining a focus on equity.

The intent of the doctoral candidate team is to contribute to the field of educational equity research by identifying district leadership practices that impact equitable access and outcomes of historically marginalized students.

After a thorough review, I am recommending the approval of the Doctoral Research Proposal - *How District Leaders Foster Equity Practices* request.